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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Forty-ninth session
Geneva, 7–18 October 2002
Item 1(b) of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE SESSION

Provisional agenda and annotations for the forty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in section I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in section II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Procedural matters:
   (a) Election of officers
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
   (d) Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Board

2. High-level segment: How can the post-Doha process work best for development?[1]

3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Developing countries in world trade

4. Progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010:
   (a) Implementation of UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of LDCs
   (b) The least developed country status: Effective benefits and the question of graduation

5. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: Structural adjustment and poverty reduction in Africa

6. Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries

7. Technical cooperation activities:
   (a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
   (b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

8. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

   Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-fifth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

9. Follow-up to decisions taken by the Board

10. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
    (a) Arrangements for regular sessions of the Board
    (b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

11. Other business

12. Adoption of the report.

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[1] The high-level segment this year will deal with an issue relating to agenda item 6.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Procedural matters

1. The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

(a) Election of officers

2. In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board consists of 12 members: the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur (i.e. 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 from List B, 2 from List C and 2 from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX), as amended).

3. In accordance with the cycle of rotation, the President of the Board for the forty-ninth session will be a representative of one of the States in List D and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States in List A (Asia). The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: 3 from List A (Africa/Asia); 4 from List B; 2 from List C; and 1 from List D.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

4. The provisional agenda for the current session is reproduced in section I above.

Organization of work

5. In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session of the Board have been organized in such a way that no two meetings take place at the same time. They have been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly that of small delegations, and also to making the most efficient use of the conference resources of the United Nations.

Establishment of sessional committees

6. In accordance with rule 62 of its Rules of Procedure, the Board may wish to set up two sessional committees. The proposed allocation of items between the plenary and sessional committees, in accordance with rule 13, is indicated in annex I of this document.

Schedule of meetings

7. The table in annex II below shows the overall timetable for the two-week period. It is understood that this schedule should be flexible to take into account developments during the session.

(c) Adoption of the report on credentials

8. In accordance with rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board will examine the credentials and submit its report to the Board.

In-session documentation

(d) Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Board

9. The draft provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Board will be submitted by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this to the Consultations of the President of the Board with the Bureau and Coordinators.

In-session documentation

Item 2 High-level segment: How can the post-Doha process work best for development?

10. The WTO's Fourth Ministerial Meeting at Doha in November 2002 established a work programme with a number of development components. The work programme is elaborated in the Ministerial Declaration and a number of additional Decisions, including in relation to implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round. In many respects the post-Doha work programme offers important opportunities to promote development, but a development-friendly outcome is not guaranteed. This item provides the opportunity for the Board to discuss how the post-Doha process can be made to work best for development, including through provisions for special and differential treatment for developing countries, which cover many areas of the WTO remit.

Documentation

TD/B/49/11	How can the post-Doha process work best for development?

Item 3 Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Developing countries in world trade

11. Developing countries have, during the past two decades, become firmly established participants in the trading system. This has coincided with a shift away from primary exports and with impressive growth in manufacturing exports, including in some high-tech goods. Under this item, the Board will examine what lies behind this performance and whether it has translated into an equally strong performance in manufacturing value added and economic growth. Particular attention will be paid to the pattern of trade liberalization, to the emergence of international production networks in some key export items, and to price movements for developing country exports.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2002	Trade and Development Report, 2002, and Overview

Item 4 Progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010:

12. UNCTAD, pursuant to paragraph 113 of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010, has already undertaken a number of concrete steps towards mainstreaming actions and commitments contained in the Programme of Action into its functions and into the work of the intergovernmental machinery. Accordingly, and within its mandates and competence, UNCTAD will intensify its work on LDCs, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States for the genuine implementation of the Programme of Action. Its activities will focus on research and policy analysis, consensus building, technical cooperation and capacity building. The secretariat has already reoriented its work towards this end.

(a) Implementation of UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of LDCs

13. At its forty-eighth regular session, the Trade and Development Board was appraised of the progress made in the implementation of the elements of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action that fall within the purview of UNCTAD (TD/B/48/16). The secretariat's note for the present session is intended to provide member States with information that is as comprehensive as possible on the progress made in the implementation of UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of the LDCs. It is also intended to serve as a basis for seeking their views and guidance on the future course of action concerning the implementation of the Programme of Action as it relates to the mandate and competence of UNCTAD.

14. In its review of the efficiency and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery, the nineteenth special session of the Board, which took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 29 April to 2 May 2002, adopted guidelines for the functioning of the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery. According to these guidelines, "the Sessional Committee of the Board on LDCs will continue to focus on coordinating, reviewing and monitoring of UNCTAD-wide activities related to the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the present decade and discussion on substantive and analytical issues of interest to LDCs". The special session of the Board also decided that, "following the publication of the Least Developed Countries Report, an executive session of the Board on LDCs not exceeding three days will meet to discuss the report and other thematic and sectoral issues of interest to LDCs". Thus the LDC Report 2002 will be discussed at the executive session of the Board on LDCs scheduled to take place in early December this year.

Documentation

TD/B/49/6	Implementation of UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of LDCs

(b) The least developed country status: Effective benefits and the question of graduation

15. The issues paper by the secretariat on this topic is aimed, mainly, at: (i) casting further light, and seeking member States' guidance, on the question of effective benefits derived by

the LDCs from their status; (ii) improving the utilization by LDCs of the benefits granted to them by the international community; (iii) identifying ways and means of better targeting benefits associated with the LDC status to make them address and induce long-term or structural improvements of their economies; and (iv) underlining the importance of a "smooth transition" for countries that have come closer to graduating from LDC status and putting forward policy recommendations for actions at national, regional and subregional levels. It analyses the relationship between these benefits and the socio-economic progress of the LDCs, especially in moving them towards "graduation" borders, in accordance with the criteria used in determining the list of LDCs. The analysis involved and the expected debates are envisaged as a first step in UNCTAD's efforts to enhance the credibility of the LDC status by encouraging a consensus between LDCs, their development partners and other developing countries on promoting tangible impact through, among other things, better utilization of this status. This implies a greater emphasis on international support measures or benefits that will tackle deep-rooted *structural* problems (towards sustained economic progress and development) in the recipient countries. This is particularly important, in comparison with the variety of *compensatory* measures that often address emergencies or attempt to meet the basic needs of these countries, without always inducing structural progress.

16. Structural benefits from the international support measures generally ought to be accompanied by efforts on the part of recipient LDCs to create necessary political and legal conditions for their accelerated growth and development. The perspective of "graduation" is important not only for the credibility of the concept of least developed country status but also for improving the special benefits offered to LDCs with a view to promoting success cases within the category. It will be equally important to consider the LDC category in a dynamic perspective. This is one of the objectives of the secretariat in this area.

Documentation

TD/B/49/7	The least developed country status: Effective benefits and the question of graduation

Item 5 UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: Structural adjustment and poverty reduction in Africa

17. The report reviews the policy content of the poverty reduction programmes in Africa and analyses the extent to which the new poverty focus of the Bretton Woods institutions differs fundamentally from the structural adjustment programmes that have constantly been applied in the region. In this context, issues related to country ownership and participation, conditionality, macroeconomic and structural adjustment policy measures as well as the new emphasis on primary health care and education and governance are discussed. The report draws a number of policy conclusions with a view to ensuring that both national and international policies are conducive to growth and poverty alleviation in the continent.

Documentation

TD/B/49/8	Structural adjustment and poverty reduction in Africa

Item 6 Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries

18. The Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, at its sixth session held from 4 to 8 February 2002, in adopting agreed conclusions under agenda item 7, recommended in paragraph 9 thereof that the Trade and Development Board review regularly developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries. The Trade and Development Board, at its twenty-eighth executive session, held on 12 March 2002, took note of the report of the Commission and endorsed the recommendations and agreed conclusions contained therein. To assist the Board in carrying out this mandate, the secretariat will circulate a background document.

Documentation

TD/B/49/12	Developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries

Item 7 Technical cooperation activities:

(a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

19. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2001, as well as developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation, in particular issues related to trade and investment-related capacity building and progress in the implementation of the decision of the Board at its forty-eighth session regarding technical cooperation. In considering this item, the Board will be assisted by the outcome of the thirty-ninth session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, held from 16 to 20 September 2002, including a programme-by-programme review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2001.

Documentation

TD/B/49/4- TD/B/WP/151	Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
TD/B/49/4/Add.1- TD/B/WP/151/Add.1	Annex I -Review of activities undertaken in 2001 (English only)
TD/B/49/4/Add.2- TD/B/WP/151/Add.2	Annex II - Statistical tables (English only)
TD/B/49/5 - TD/WP/152	Annual Indicative Technical Cooperation Plan for 2003

(b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

20. In line with the 2002-2005 United Nations Medium-term Plan and paragraph 167 of the Bangkok Plan of Action, the UNCTAD secretariat is intensifying its work to assist the Palestinian people to develop capacities for effective policy-making and management pertaining to international trade, investment and related services. The secretariat has reported annually to the Trade and Development Board on its programme of technical assistance in this area. The secretariat's reports have also included updates of Palestinian economic and trade performance and the findings of related policy analysis and research by the secretariat.

21. Pursuant to the provision of the biennial work programme, the secretariat has prepared its latest report to the Trade and Development Board on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people. The first section of the report reviews the impact of the crisis in the region on the Palestinian economy and relevant policy responses in the context of new challenges and pressures. This provides the backdrop for the review in the second section of progress in technical assistance projects under way or completed by the secretariat since mid-2001, as well as unfunded proposals for technical cooperation awaiting implementation.

22. In taking note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat, the Board may wish to consider the need to mobilize additional extrabudgetary resources to implement priority technical assistance proposals by the UNCTAD secretariat. In accordance with General Assembly decision 47/445, and as in previous years, the Board may, in its report to the General Assembly on its forty-ninth session, draw the Assembly's attention to the deliberations under this item.

Documentation

TD/B/49/9	Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

Item 8 Other matters in the field of trade and development:

Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-fifth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

23. The thirty-fifth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in Vienna from 17 to 28 June 2002. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), the report of the session will be before the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/49/10	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 9 Follow-up to decisions taken by the Board

Item 10 Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Arrangements for the regular session of the Board

24. At the Mid-Term Review, in its consideration of the intergovernmental machinery, the Board decided that, at its next regular session it would consider the issue of having two regular sessions, one in the spring, and the other in the Autumn. At the President's consultations on 27 June 2002, the President indicated that he would hold consultations on the issue. The President will therefore inform the Board on the outcome of his consultations with a view to enabling the Trade and Development Board to take its decision on the subject.

(b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

25. The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

In-session documentation, if required

Item 11 Other business

Item 12 Adoption of the report

26. In accordance with Board decision 259(XXV), two versions of the report are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions emanating from the session and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the proceedings, which constitutes the official record of the Board's session.

Annex I

ALLOCATION OF ITEMS

Plenary

1(a) Election of officers
1(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
1(c) Adoption of the report on credentials
1(d) Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Board

2 High-level segment: How can the post-Doha process work best for development?

3 Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Developing countries in world trade

6 Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries

7(a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
7(b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

8 Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-fifth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

9 Follow-up to decisions taken by the Board

10(a) Arrangements for regular sessions of the Board
10(b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

11 Other business

12 Adoption of the report.

Sessional Committee I

4 Progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010:
(a) Implementation of UNCTAD-wide activities in favour of LDCs
(b) The least developed country status: Effective benefits and the question of graduation

Sessional Committee II

5 UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: Structural adjustment and poverty reduction in Africa

Annex II

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS
7 to 18 October 2002

1st week	Monday 7/10	Tuesday 8/10	Wednesday 9/10	Thursday 10/10	Friday 11/10
10.00 A.M.	**PLENARY** Opening: Procedural matters Statements: S-G of UNCTAD Regional groups	**PLENARY** Item 3 Interdependence	**PLENARY** Item 3 Interdependence	**PLENARY** Item 6 Review development post-Doha	**SC I** Item 4 LDCs
3.00 P.M.	**HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT** Item2	**PLENARY** Item 3 Interdependence	**PLENARY** Item 3 Interdependence	PLENARY Item 6 Review development post-Doha	**SC I** Item 4 LDCs

2nd week	Monday 14/10	Tuesday 15/10	Wednesday 16/10	Thursday 17/10	Friday 18/10
10.00 A.M.	**SC I** Item 4 LDCs	**SC II** Item 5 Africa	**SC II** Item 5 Africa	**SC I & SC II** (finalization of work of Sessional Committees))	**PLENARY** Item 7(a) Tech coop (b)Palestinian people Item 8 UNCITRAL Item 9 Follow-up Item 10(a) Arrangements for Board sessions
3.00 P.M.	**SC I** Item 4 LDCs	**SC II** Item 5 Africa	**SC II** Item 5 Africa	**BUREAU**	**SC I & SC II** Adoption of reports **PLENARY (closing)** Item 1(c) & (d) Reports of SC I & II All other items Adoption of report